

## Equal Rights and the Kotel

Anat Hoffman to speak about the fight for gender equality in Israeli society

BY MELISSA SCHAPIRO

For Jews, the state of Israel figures prominently in our lives — as a place of pilgrimage, an ideal, a link to history. It is also a great experiment, bringing new life to a national existence that had been dormant for 2,000 years. While we are proud to have maintained the Torah, word for word, all this time, our daily lives and societal norms have definitely undergone a lot of change.

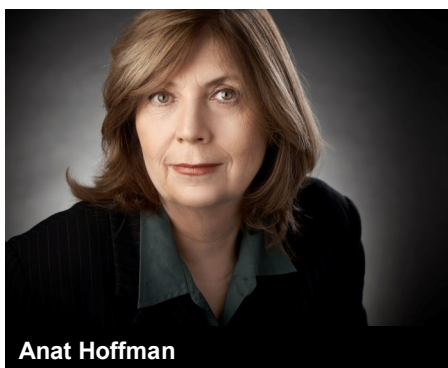
Israelis, and anyone visiting Israel, will see these dynamics at play especially at our most iconic site, the Western Wall. Spaces are partitioned



by gender, separate spaces that are not equal — and with Orthodox rules applied to all.

Enter Anat Hoffman, executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center, the legal and advocacy arm of the Reform Movement in Israel. She founded and has led Women of the Wall for the past three decades. Her talk to Congregation Beth Israel (via Zoom), “The Cracks in the Wall Let the Light in: The Battle for Equal Rights at the Western Wall,” will be at 10:00 am (Pacific time) Sunday, April 4, 2021. Time for questions will follow the program. The Zoom link will be provided in the *Timbrel* newsletter, the week before.

“Anat has inspired so many of us over the years with her commitment to



Anat Hoffman

FROM THE RABBI

## Collective Memory

Just this past September, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany released the first ever 50-state survey on



Holocaust knowledge amongst Millennials and Generation Z (ages 18-39). The U.S. Millennial Holocaust Knowledge and Aware-

ness Survey revealed shocking ignorance in its findings. For example, nearly half of all surveyed could not name one concentration camp; 23% of respondents believed the Holocaust was a myth; 11% believed that Jews caused the Holocaust; 12% had never heard of the Holocaust; and over half had seen Nazi symbols on social media sites. However, as bad as these statistics look, there is a glimmer of hope: 64% feel that Holocaust education should be compulsory in school, and 80% believe that it is important to continue teaching about the Holocaust.

If nothing else, this study shows that we need to do a much better job educating our youth about this dark period in human history. Clearly, our country has missed the mark in teaching the Holocaust and, most

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## From the President...

# Silver Linings

As I write this article, it is February. For the URJ, it is Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusivity Month. From the URJ website: "We are taught in *Pirke Avot*, Ethics of our Fathers, 'Do not separate yourself from the community.' The converse is equally compelling: We must prevent anyone from being separated against his or her will." At CBI, we have had ease of access on our minds as we planned and furnished the building. This is a topic near to my heart, because if my father, Barry Shapiro, z"l, had been alive when my oldest daughter, Julia, became a Bat Mitzvah, he would not have been able to attend the service. It was one of the last in our old synagogue on Broadway. For Samantha's Bat Mitzvah, he could have rolled on in. She was the first in our new building.

Debbie Raas, z"l, and Dan Raas were so helpful when the Interior Design Committee was choosing furnishings. In addition to the ADA requirements, they brought specific ideas of ways to make our building safer.

Hank Levine wrote to us soon after the building was opened to raise our awareness that we needed to address sound issues in our large worship space. From that, the Acoustics Task Force, led by Marta Brand, was born. They jumped into action on improving the acoustics for both those with normal hearing and those with challenges. For the High Holy Days we trialed some headsets from the local Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, and that made a big difference for those who tried them. The task force also started working on ways to reduce echo and improve sound quality in general.

Fast forward 6 months – we entered the Covid-19 lockdown. At a meeting, I asked the Acoustics Task Force if they would be willing to look at video equipment to help us move into streaming services. They did not hesitate, but immediately agreed, and thus became the AV Task Force. While streaming our Shabbat services from homes works well with Zoom, we were able to take things up a notch for High Holy Days, with screen sharing of the prayer book, and a virtual *bima* and open Ark.

Now, as Covid numbers start to come down and vaccine numbers start to come up, we are looking ahead to the possibility of opening the shul. For some time, we may be able to gather in person with reduced numbers, but we also must be accessible to all of our members as best we can.

Someday we may not be restricted by these Covid phases and tiers. But the world has changed. People who didn't tend to come to Friday night services, for a variety of reasons, are now regulars at our charming Shabbat services. Committee members who live in Skagit do not face an hour of commuting to attend meetings. Far-flung families can gather remotely for *simchas*. People with medical risk factors can join in without feeling they are risking their health. For these reasons and more, we are moving ahead with the equipment and the processes for having hybrid services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur this fall.

It is mind-boggling to realize that it has been almost a year since we had to close the synagogue. I am still so amazed at how quickly Rabbi Samuels, Mary Somerville, Andrea Shupack, Nicky Naiman, and the Board and committees were able to adapt and rise to the challenge of keeping CBI going virtually. We have taken lemons and made kosher lemonade.

As I reflect on the things we have learned and the processes we have started, I am reminded that it is an ill wind that blows no good. I think we would eventually have started the process of thinking about how we could include those who could not come to the synagogue in person. The Covid crisis has hastened our learning curve. We will continue to look for ways to include as many community members as we can. That is the CBI way. Please share your thoughts about how else we may be more inclusive.

For now – Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay connected!

— MIRIAM SCHWARTZ,  
PRESIDENT

## CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

751 San Juan Boulevard  
Bellingham, WA 98229

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**Deadline for submission of all articles and calendar events for the May/June issue is APRIL 11.** Call the office for more information.

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*From the Keshet Center for Jewish Learning*

## Windows into Keshet

BY NICKY NAIMAN, JULIA SCHWARTZ, KEVIN DONNER, LEAH BALL, AND RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS



Keshet has been virtual for almost a year now, but that doesn't mean the learning has stopped. Children are still thriving in their Jewish education, but it looks, well, different. We want to provide you with an inside view of what is happening in some of our classrooms. Therefore, we have asked

teachers to share a favorite moment or activity from their class this year. Not all classes are featured, but we hope this selection will give you a sense of the learning taking place in spite of the distance between us.

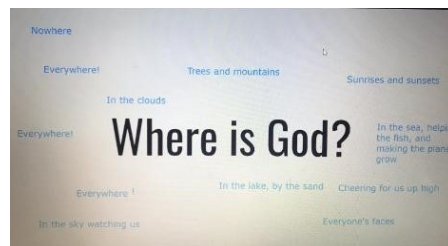
One source of inspiration our teachers have seized on this year is to cultivate the opportunities which this unique learning platform provides for us. Instead of focusing on what we have lost, we try to focus on what we have gained. This means technology, like creating awesome Google slide presentations for classmates, but it also means home scavenger hunts, and show and tell like never before.

Take a look at a few of our highlights this year!

### First-Second Grade by Julia Schwartz

It has been so incredible getting to know our students over Zoom, especially when it comes to exploring questions like "Where is God?" For this particular activity, which went along with reading the story of Jonah and the big fish, we sent our students out into their houses to find something very big, as well as something very small. The assortment of items was a blast, featuring things as small as a cupcake sprinkle and as big as the city of Seattle! We even had a pair of students who both happened to bring a cow stuffie to share. The excitement in

sharing their items was absolutely contagious, and we were all then inspired to answer our bigger question and provide examples of where God might be, no matter the size, shape, or place. In the process of learning to overcome the inherent challenges of online education, we, as teachers, are all the more inspired by the energy and originality of our students.



### Fourth-Fifth Grade by Kevin Donner

I really enjoy incorporating artwork into our lessons. We've spent a lot of time during this Keshet year reading significant verses from the Torah, and one of the activities that has become a favorite of mine is asking the students to draw their own artistic rendering of a verse being studied before showing them examples produced by artists over the past few thousand years. The student's interpretations are always so much fun, and range from the literal, to the abstract, to the flat-out silly.

One example that sticks out for me was when I read to the class from Numbers 16:17: "Each of you take his fire pan and lay incense on it, and each of you bring his fire pan before the LORD, two hundred and fifty fire pans; you and Aaron also [bring] your fire pans." Some of the students thought that I said "fire pants" instead of "fire pans" and the various drawings made us all laugh.

*Continued on Page 14*

## Synagogue 411

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# Bat Mitzvah



**Tahlia Riley Somers** will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 1, 2021. She is the daughter of Perry and Katie Somers, the older sister of Lior, and granddaughter of Majorie and Arnold Somers, z"l. Tahlia is an eighth-grade student at Conway School. Her pursuits are rock climbing and theater, and her

favorite subject in school is science. She loves to learn about space and how Disney Imagineers use physics and storytelling to design and develop rides. For her

Mitzvah project, Tahlia is developing a pen pal program for shut-ins who may not otherwise receive letters. She is also participating in the 2020-2021 class B'nei Mitzvah project of reducing single-use plastic.

Tahlia's family invites you to join them in celebrating this *simcha*:

**SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE**  
Friday, April 30, 2021 at 5:30 pm

**SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE**  
Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 10:00 am


## Join Us for Our Next Holiday Events!

**Yom HaShoah Ve-Hagevurah:**  
**Holocaust and Heroism**  
**Remembrance Day**  
**Wednesday, April 7, 7:00 pm**

Please join us for our annual *Yom HaShoah* Service of Remembrance. This intergenerational event will include music led by our cantorial soloist, Andrea Shupack, as well as leadership from our eighth-grade Kesher class.

**Yom Ha'Atzmaut:**  
**Israeli Independence Day**  
**Wednesday, April 14, 6:30 pm**



Please join your CBI community as we sing and eat in celebration of *Medinat Yisrael*. Our evening will begin with a *Yom HaZikaron* (Israeli Memorial Day) siren and moment of silence, followed by "*Hatikva*." Rabbi Samuels will lead the fourth annual *Hidon haTanakh* (Torah trivia), so brush up on your Hebrew Bible! Have some Israeli food nearby to nosh on while we celebrate 73 years.



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*From the Social Action Committee*

# Praying with Our Hands

## Committing to our next step for the Earth

Climate change, fossil fuels, single-use plastics, food equity — these related issues have been on my mind for a long time. It started as a child when I gave school talks about the importance of the three Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle. Even after 30+ years focused on environmental issues, I often struggle and fail to reach my highest aspirations for action — especially these days, when it is frustratingly hard because we can't bring our own mug to the cafe, or our own containers to the bulk section. When avoiding stores, I relied more on Amazon, only to have items arrive separately, triple-wrapped in plastic, inside a box, inside another box. What are we supposed to do?!

We are all at different places in our journey, so the first thing is to be gentle with ourselves as we try to take one step at a time. Most long-lasting changes take a mental shift. Once a new action or mindset becomes habit, it is easy to follow through. I couldn't imagine 10 years ago coming home from the grocery store with no plastic, but now, many small and slow steps later on my own journey, it happens without thinking. Bringing containers to the grocery store, and grabbing a travel mug before leaving, in case I wanted to swing by a cafe — these actions eventually became automatic.

I encourage us all to take one more step from wherever your current starting place is. Make an audit of the items in your house, see which things accumulate the most waste, yet wouldn't take a huge effort to reduce, and start there. For me, coffee had been such a regular occurrence that when I could no longer bring my own mug to cafes, the best and easiest step for me was to make coffee at home. This was easy to take on since I wasn't leaving the house much anyway, and as a treat, I used all the savings to buy my own espresso machine. I chose something that was personally easy, but would have the most impact in my waste reduction.

The Social Action Committee is committed to remaining focused on climate change solutions, at the same time as we simultaneously tackle the other huge and urgent topic of racial justice. We believe both these areas demand our long-term efforts; therefore, we will continue to provide opportunities for education and action over the next few years, in order for our whole community to learn and grow together as we fight for justice for the planet and all its inhabitants. Our fate is inextricably linked with the fate of the Earth, as are the issues of equality and justice tied to climate change. Working for systems of righteousness around production of food, energy, and

other consumables is also fighting against injustice for vulnerable communities, who are most impacted by the harmful outcomes of our current systems.

It's easy to lose sight of, and to become overwhelmed by, climate change or social justice. It is easy to think that my actions do not have an impact on something so huge. The wisdom of Judaism reminds us to resist discouragement, lest it paralyze us from action. "*Lo alecha hamlacha ligmor...*" We are not expected to complete the task, Rabbi Tarfon famously said, but we are not free to avoid the work. It may seem like a tiny achievement to avoid one plastic container at the grocery store, or sign one petition, but each little action leads to greater awareness and more change.

On a practical level, our actions and our dollars are powerful forms of voting and movement for change. If we refuse to let the fossil fuel industry manipulate our consumer habits, and we refuse to make purchases that destroy our planet or harm the health of communities, we send a strong message that their time of profiting at the world's expense is ending.

On a spiritual level, these are also significant acts. One holy act leads to another, and they each spread out by their example in numerous ways we often don't witness. We are all God's creations, and the more we care for something or someone else, we tap into our awe and wonder about this universe. This spiritual connection leads us to see everything as a precious creation illuminating a Divine spark. When we see the world in this way, we cannot help but care for and protect it.

Just as Abraham rushed to do acts of loving-kindness for the strangers who arrived suddenly at his tent, we must hurry and not delay in our *gemilut chasadim*, translated by Alan Morinis not as loving-kindness, but as "generous sustaining benevolence" towards others and the environment.

I look forward to continuing this conversation and journey over the years as together we aim to make incremental change toward a more sustainable future, complete with awe and *chesed*.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Shupack,  
on behalf of the Social Action Committee

# Hillel News

BY VERMEDA FRED

Hillel of WWU continues to thrive during these challenging times of Covid-19, which require our Hillel students to hang out together, virtually. Under the creative leadership of our Program Coordinator, Naomi Siegel, the students are cooking delicious recipes in their own homes, separate but together, as well as finding ways to celebrate various Jewish holidays with masked and physically distanced drive-by events. For Chanukah and for Purim, for example, students can drive by and take goodies prepared for the festival day. Please check out our website (<https://www.hillel.weebly.com/>) to learn all that we've been up to during the past year, and find us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HillelWWU/>).

We are also thrilled to announce that CBI member Miriam Buckman has joined our Community Board of Directors! Welcome, Miriam! We are looking forward to Miriam's creative input in programming, as well as helping the board perform the tasks of organizational oversight and management for our Hillel.



Purim bags!

With Miriam's joining us, we have increased our Board membership, but we are still in need of new members. Vermeda will be stepping down as secretary after our April board meeting, and we will need a replacement to perform these duties. Also, other members of the board are at that point when they need to step down, at least for a time, due to our bylaws. We meet every other month, and we also support the club's activities whenever possible.

We are urgently asking CBI members to please consider this volunteer opportunity that serves the larger Jewish community. Perhaps parents of past or present graduating Kesher high school students might be interested! Even if your child is attending a college other than WWU, volunteering with our Hillel Board will educate you about the work of Hillel International, as well as fulfill a great need for our local Jewish college students. Any grandparents, aunts, uncles, or any other CBI members are also urged to apply!

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Anyone interested, please contact Geraldine Reitz, Board President, at [flori121@yahoo.com](mailto:flori121@yahoo.com) or (360) 319-1942. We would love to have you as our guest at our next Community Board meeting!





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# Birthdays

## MARCH 2021

3/1 Tannia Hecht  
 3/1 Brenda Miller  
 3/2 Nadia Mazonson (16th)  
 3/4 Renee Elder  
 3/4 Nancy Luster  
 3/4 Talya Sanger (20th)  
 3/5 Lev Cornwall (15th)  
 3/5 Lyra Davis (3rd)  
 3/6 Christoph Reitz  
 3/6 Mary Somerville  
 3/6 Judith Zibbell  
 3/7 Jay Braunstein  
 3/7 Sara Geballe  
 3/8 Norman DesRosiers  
 3/8 Deborah Oksenberg  
 3/8 K.C. Sulkin  
 3/9 Bert Curtis  
 3/9 Leeya Shoshana Genut (8th)  
 3/9 Ryan Goldman (16th)  
 3/10 Mark Steinberg  
 3/11 Samuel Pomerantz (6th)  
 3/12 Sivan Wells-Langley (10th)  
 3/13 Rebecca Orloff  
 3/13 Joan Sager  
 3/13 Steve Schwartz  
 3/14 Jordan Verkh-Haskell (19th)  
 3/15 Yaniv Attar  
 3/15 Esther Horton (9th)  
 3/18 Jessica Cohen  
 3/19 Carol Robinson  
 3/20 Jody Meltzer  
 3/20 Matthew Schall  
 3/21 Naomi Pomerantz  
 3/21 Bonnie Quam

3/22 Jonah Attar (11th)  
 3/22 Sonorah DesRosiers (13th)  
 3/22 Sue Mahar  
 3/22 Roy Shankman  
 3/23 Camille Keefe  
 3/23 Jerome Rosen  
 3/24 Ruth Ingberman  
 3/24 Michael Korner  
 3/25 Tami DuBow  
 3/27 Marybeth Taranow  
 3/27 Aviva Weinstein (14th)  
 3/28 Celt Schira  
 3/28 Nancy Thomson  
 3/29 Rick Romito  
 3/30 David Kiersky  
 3/30 Samantha Konikoff  
 3/31 Lynn Korner  
 3/31 Jeffrey Margolis  
 3/31 Gabriel Witte (12th)

## APRIL 2021

4/1 Amy Kraham  
 4/2 Sherry Baron  
 4/3 Ethan Oliver (19th)  
 4/3 Alisa Sachs  
 4/4 Daniel Feller  
 4/4 Mary Jo Lewis  
 4/6 Tammy Dixon  
 4/6 Katie Edelstein  
 4/6 Hank Levine  
 4/6 Daniel Zagnoli  
 4/7 Lisa Balton  
 4/7 Steven Cohen  
 4/7 Samuel Donner (14th)  
 4/7 Kevin Parker

4/10 Katie Comstock  
 4/10 Jeffrey Feld  
 4/10 Susan Katz  
 4/11 Lilah Blum (20th)  
 4/12 Cora Boothby  
 4/12 Sarah DesRosiers  
 4/13 Steve Ban  
 4/13 Karen Fisher  
 4/14 Jeffrey Probst  
 4/16 Mia Clarke (15th)  
 4/16 Elizabeth Witte (9th)  
 4/17 Paul Blum  
 4/17 Benjamin Sommers (15th)  
 4/18 Navah DesRosiers (16th)  
 4/18 Ian Horton  
 4/18 Liza Jane Price (13th)  
 4/18 Linda Read  
 4/18 Alexandra Verkh  
 4/19 Orly Ravitsky  
 4/23 Lindsay Roberts (11th)  
 4/24 Leah Lippman  
 4/24 Aniel Wells-Langley (12th)  
 4/25 Margaret Bikman  
 4/25 Ian McCurdy  
 4/25 Jason Stoane  
 4/26 Spencer Jantzen (16th)  
 4/27 Alan Kendal  
 4/27 Philip Wolff  
 4/28 Joel David  
 4/28 Andrew Orloff  
 4/28 Katlaina Rayne  
 4/28 Shoshana Samuels (9th)  
 4/29 Abigail Comstock (13th)  
 4/29 Richard Widerkehr

## The Kvelling Corner

Welcome to our new members!

- **Shira Gold** – Bellingham
- **Ellen & David Smith** – Ferndale

Welcome to the Jewish community: **Emily Anton, Terrah Short, & Brandi Picora.** Mazel tov!

*Vermeda M. Fred, MFT, MFA*



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# Faces in Our Community: Donna and Jay Solomon

BY LINDA HIRSH

*Consider Donna and Jay Solomon: Both were born into large midwestern observant Jewish families. Families on both sides owned grocery stores. Donna and Jay both attended Indiana University, where they met as freshmen, graduated, then married in 1964.*

Opposites may attract, but the apparent comfort and familiarity that this couple established with each other has enabled them to celebrate their fifty-seventh wedding anniversary this June.

"Yes, we've been together as a couple for 60 years, which I know is unique in and of itself," Jay said. "But it's difficult for us to envision any other life than the one we share."

Jay and Donna are "accomplished individuals," as well, in the words of friend Karen Sloss. "He was a mentor to me in becoming synagogue treasurer and then president," she said.

When the Solomons arrived in Bellingham in 1991, they promptly joined Congregation Beth Israel. Jay served as treasurer. Later, when he was president, a rabbi decided to leave late in the year. "It was a tumultuous time at Beth Israel and left



Donna and Jay Solomon

many shaken," he said, but his strong leadership helped bring the members back to an even keel.

Donna makes life even sweeter for members by contributing baked goods for synagogue events. "She stands out as a creative cook and baker," Karen said, "from traditional Jewish recipes to other ethnic cooking and the latest trends in American cuisine."

Born in Chicago, Donna and her family belonged to a Conservative synagogue on the South Side. Music runs through her family's blood. After owning and operating a business, her father, an accomplished pianist,

sold it and trained to become a piano tuner at the Chicago Piano Institute. As Jay says, most notable of her tribe is Mandy Patinkin, singer and actor. But also included is one of the founders of Chicago's Second City, a comedy repertory company that preceded "Saturday Night Live," and a past president of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. "That large extended family was highly influential in her early life and continues to this day," Jay said.

Donna graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in early childhood education. She had a stint as a kindergarten

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## EQUAL RIGHTS AND THE KOTEL

*Continued from Page 1*

gender equality, progressive Judaism, and the breaking down of religious norms in Israel,” said Rabbi Joshua Samuels. “When Melissa [Schapiro] initially talked about bringing Anat to CBI via Zoom, she didn’t even have to finish her sentence. I was all in.”

WOW’s mission, as stated on its website, is to attain social and legal recognition of women’s right to wear prayer shawls, pray, and read from the Torah, collectively and aloud, at the Western Wall. The organization aims to change the status quo and to educate Jewish women and the public about the social, political, and personal ramifications of limiting or eliminating women’s right to pray as a group at a holy site. When the law and society silence women in prayer — literally, publicly, and deliberately — it is a violation of civil rights, human rights, and religious freedom. Education is the key to changing perspectives, laws, and lives.

After congregants and Rabbi Samuels heard Hoffman speak at the URJ Biennial in December 2019, Congregation Beth Israel donated two Torah mantles to be used in a WOW *Rosh Chodesh* procession (which has been delayed by Covid). The parade at the Wall will have girls



**Anat Hoffman (foreground) and URJ Rabbi Rick Jacobs (at right) are among many carrying Torahs in the plaza by the Western Wall, in July 2017.**

and women carrying empty Torah mantles as a symbol of what women have been denied.

Over the years, Hoffman has fought (and won) recognition of Reform and Conservative conversions by the state, and led the struggle against gender segregation in the public domain, including on public buses, airplanes, and a national radio station. She also served 14 years on Jerusalem’s city council.

More information online: [www.irac.org/](http://www.irac.org/) and [www.womenofthewall.org.il/](http://www.womenofthewall.org.il/)

## DONNA AND JAY SOLOMON

*Continued from Page 8*

teacher. After their two children were born, she became an educator for their congregation in Mount Lebanon, PA. Their daughter lives in Marquette, NY, with her husband and her 15 year-old son. Their son lives in Lake Forest Park, WA, with his wife and two sons, aged 11 and 16.

Jay is a native son of Detroit. At nine, he and his family moved to Hammond, IN, his mother’s birthplace. Both sides were extensive, with no shortage of aunts, uncles, and cousins. “As I look back on it now, it was an extraordinary time to grow up without the fears parents have today about their children playing unsupervised outdoors,” he said. Jay attended public school four days a week, and strode across the street to *cheder*, the traditional elementary school teaching the basics of Judaism and Hebrew. After moving to Hammond, they joined a Conserva-

tive shul where his grandfather had been president for over 20 years.

“Jay is very smart in many facets of business,” Karen said. In fact, business is in Jay’s DNA. Jay’s father graduated from law school during the Depression, but instead of joining a firm, he worked for a brother-in-law, who owned a chain of grocery stores. Jay’s father then managed his own grocery and butcher shop. From 1950 on, Jay’s father worked at his father’s automobile dealerships.

While studying accounting at Indiana University, Jay discovered photography and pursued that interest at the university’s school of photo journalism, where he was staff photographer and ran the photo lab for the school newspaper. Jay earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 1964 and an MBA from the University of Washington.

Jay joined a small Chicago computer startup in 1970. He spent his career in accounting management

positions until 1990, when they joined Donna’s brother, Gene Kahn, in Rockport, WA, to help establish Cascadia Farms, an organic food business which was ultimately sold to General Mills. Jay has passed that business DNA to his son, whom he helped start a home healthcare business in Seattle.

When the Solomons moved to Bellingham, Donna’s parents joined them. Jay especially remembers the warm welcomes from Dan Raas, Steve Adelstein, and David Robinson.

The couple travels. They’ve landed on the soil of China “for the joy of new adventures and expansion of understanding of our place in the world,” Jay said. They’ve also hit Hawaii many times with children and grandchildren.

“I find Jay and Donna very energetic and young for their age,” Karen said. “We’ve travelled together to China, Italy, and France. They are great and fun travel companions!”

## March/April 2021 Shabbat Service Schedule

All services via Zoom link, which is provided in the weekly *Timbrel* e-newsletter or by request — contact the CBI office by phone or email. *On the fourth Friday of each month, services begin at 7:30 pm.*

Friday, Mar. 5	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service	Saturday, Apr. 3	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Pesach Seventh Day</i> )
Saturday, Mar. 6	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Ki Tisa</i> ) <b>10:45 am</b> All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack		<b>10:45 am</b> All-music, Contemplative Service with Andrea Shupack
Friday, Mar. 12	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat	Friday, Apr. 9	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, Mar. 13	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Vayak'heil-P'kudei</i> )	Saturday, Apr. 10	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Sh'mini</i> )
Friday, Mar. 19	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat	Friday, Apr. 16	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, Mar. 20	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Vayikra</i> )	Saturday, Apr. 17	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Tazria-M'tzora</i> )
Friday, Mar. 26	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble	Friday, Apr. 23	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat with members of the Ma'Ayan Shir ensemble
Saturday, Mar. 27	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Tzav</i> ) <b>10:30 am</b> Conservative-style lay-led minyan	Saturday, Apr. 24	<b>9:30 am</b> Torah Study ( <i>Parashat Acharei-K'doshim</i> )
Friday, Apr. 2	<b>5:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat Family Service with Keshet seventh Graders	Friday, Apr. 30	<b>7:30 pm</b> Kabbalat Shabbat, with leadership from Tahlia Somers
		Saturday, May 1	<b>10:00 am</b> Bat Mitzvah of Tahlia Somers

## End-of-Life Workshop

BY JANIS BAN

Last February and March (2020), the Care Committee and the Cemetery Committee sponsored four End-of-Life Planning Workshops. The first one featured Dr. Anita Meyers and Dr. Angie Lee speaking on "Palliative Care and Hospice Services." In the second, Dr. Bill Lombard discussed the "Realities of Advanced Medical Interventions." In the third, Tessa Whitlock helped us to complete the "Honoring Choices Advance Directive Document." Then Covid hit! We never completed the fourth session, so we invite you via Zoom to join us on Sunday March 7,

2021 at 2:00 pm for the fourth session featuring Rabbi Samuels discussing "The Rabbi's Role at the End of Life: Jewish Burial and Mourning Rituals." Janis Ban will also be speaking about the Chevra Kadisha and the Beth Israel Cemetery. We will have representatives from Moles, Westford, and Sig's funeral homes for a panel discussion about their services before and after death. This event is free and intended for those 18 and older. Watch for the Zoom link in the weekly *Timbrel*.

# Special Fund Donations

## CAMP & YOUTH ACTIVITIES FUND

### MAZEL TOV TO:

\*Kayla Schott-Bresler & Ian McCurdy, on the birth of Miriam Schott McCurdy

\*David Strich & Michelle Banks, on the birth of Ella Rose Banks Strich

\*Sarah Zarrow & David Schlitt, on the birth of Jacob Evan Morrill Zarrow

**From:** Karen Sloss

### IN HONOR OF:

\*Aviva Weinstein, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

\*Samuel Donner, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**From:** Karen Sloss

## CARE COMMITTEE

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Nancy Luster, in loving memory of her husband, Mark

**From:** Mark Balter (Seattle)  
Anita & Amy Reich  
(Mercer Island)

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

Rabbi Samuels

**From:** Marilyn Marker  
(Rancho Mirage, CA)

### IN HONOR OF:

The wedding of Terrah and Logan

**From:** Amanda Robins &  
Daniel Zagnoli

The Bat Mitzvah of our daughter, Laoise

**From:** Jennifer Seltz &  
Niall Ó Murchú

\*Aviva Weinstein, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

\*Samuel Donner, on becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**From:** Patrick Crane

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Noel Hanford (Rancho Mirage, CA), in memory of Lloyd Hanford

**From:** Rhoda &  
Peter Samuels  
(Rancho Mirage, CA)

Nancy Luster & family, in memory of her husband Mark

**From:** Steve & Rita Spitzer

Gaby Mayers & family, in memory of his uncle, Moses Judah

**From:** Toby Sonneman

### COMMEMORATING THE Yahrzeit OF:

\*Fred Graff, our beloved brother

\*Isadore Graff, our beloved father

**From:** Phyllis & Shelly Mazur

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Aaron & Marie  
Blackman Foundation  
(Valley Village, CA)  
Jerry & Marilyn Eisner

## GENERAL FUND

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Ann Suloway, in loving memory of her brother,

Mishra Stephen Suloway  
**From:** Erin & Steven Cohen

### IN MEMORY OF:

Our dear friend, Ruth Philipp  
**From:** Neill Stanford &  
Heike Ringeling

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Greg Peterson

## MAX GLASS LIBRARY FUND

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Ann Suloway & family, in memory of her brother Mishra Stephen Suloway

**From:** Toby Sonneman

## NEW SYNAGOGUE FUND

### IN APPRECIATION:

To Stu Berman, for his adult education classes

**From:** Sheila Sondik

### IN HONOR OF:

Rebekah Sommers, on becoming a Bat Mitzvah

**From:** Richard Widerkehr

The DesRosiers Family

**From:** Jerry & Cheryl  
Waldbaum

The Milton & Miriam  
Waldbaum Family  
Foundation

### DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Jeff Margolis, in memory of beloved wife, Amy

**From:** Karen Sloss  
Bonnie & Alan Stone

\* Perry Davids, in memory of his father, William "Billy" Davids

\* Roy Shankman & family, in memory of his mother, Lenore Shankman  
**From:** Karen Sloss

Ann Suloway, in memory of her brother, Mishra Stephen Suloway

**From:** Rita & Steve Spitzer  
Joan & Marv Wayne

Mitchell Cohen (Newberry Park, CA), on the loss of your father, Sheldon

**From:** Bernice Loober

Nancy Luster, in memory of our dear friend, Mark

**From:** Alan & Susan Kendal

\*Gaby Mayers & family, in memory of his uncle, Moses Judah

\*Nancy Luster & family, in memory of her husband Mark

**From:** Joan & Marv Wayne

### CONTRIBUTION FROM:

Stu & Judy Berman

Marta & Craig Brand

Jill & David Elkayam

Esther Faber

Sara Geballe &

Steve James

David Goldman &

Linda Blackwell

Beverly Harrington

Wendy &

Jeffrey Holtzman

Daniel Ingberman &

Renee Elder

Stephanie Korn

Gloria Lebowitz

Fran Levy

Lou & Marcia Lippman

Jodi Litt

Mark Litt Family Fund

Mark (z"l) &

Nancy Luster

Jeff Margolis

Gregg Orlik &

Howard Fuller

Joshua &

Nicole Samuels

Noni Schultheiss

Miriam &

Greg Schwartz

Jennifer Seltz &

Niall Ó Murchú

Alan & Bonnie Stone

Ann Suloway &

Tim Baker

Terri Weiner &

Rob Lopresti

## SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

### IN APPRECIATION TO:

The Braunstein family – thank you for inviting us to join you for CBI Zoom services

**From:** Fara Wolfson  
(Salem, MA)

**FROM THE RABBI***Continued from Page 1*

likely, other atrocities as well, such as slavery and the genocide of African and Native American peoples.

The basic lack of knowledge about the Shoah frightens me. With fewer and fewer survivors able to share their stories, with increases in anti-Jewish acts and rhetoric in our country, it seems that we are on track to see even more shocking data when the next study is conducted several years from now.

While the general population might be going in one direction, American Jewish identity seems to be shaped in large part by the Holocaust. In the seminal 2013 Pew Research Survey of Jews in the United States, a whopping 73% of respondents said that “remembering the Holocaust” was essential to being Jewish. This was the highest-ranked response, beating out “observing Jewish law,” “caring about Israel,” or “leading an ethical life.”

Pew shows us that the Holocaust has become central to what it means to be an American Jew. While it is easy to state that the Millennial and Gen Z survey is concerning, one could just as well argue the same about the Pew study. In fact, many scholars have debated whether there is an overemphasis on Holocaust memory in American Jewish communal life today. Is it healthy for us that our main connection to being Jewish is rooted in trauma?

Salo Baron, considered one of the most influential Jewish historians of the twentieth century, wrote in 1963,

“All my life I have been struggling against the hitherto dominant lachrymose conception of Jewish history... because I have felt that an overemphasis on Jewish sufferings distorted the total picture of the Jewish historic evolution...” In other words, Baron was concerned that Jews emphasized historic Jewish suffering and persecution in place of a more nuanced look at the richness of our history, our relations with our neighbors, and our contributions to the world.

I am not positive how I feel about Baron’s concern. On the one hand, it makes perfect sense. How long must we have a victim mentality? On the other hand, our tradition has taught us never to forget. The moment we forget, the more likely Charlottesville will become commonplace. Perhaps our goal should be to find a middle ground.

I want to assure you that Keshet is doing a phenomenal job of teaching the Holocaust to our eighth graders and teaching about anti-Semitism to our Confirmation students, and I invite you to join us on Yom HaShoah so you can be inspired by our eighth-grade class. There is still so much work to be done across the country and even in our neck of the woods, yet I am encouraged by what I see in our classrooms. Beth Israel’s commitment to learning about the past gives me great hope.

RABBI JOSHUA SAMUELS

## Anniversaries

Mar. 15	Isaac & Samantha Konikoff	(# 13)
Mar. 18	Nancy & Don Davis	(# 37)
Mar. 19	Robert & Jody Meltzer	(# 21)
Mar. 21	Jerome Rosen & Katlaina Rayne	(# 33)
Mar. 24	Alan & Susan Kendal	(# 53)
Mar. 24	Laura & Cassandra Wolfson	(# 17)
Mar. 26	Leah & Jeffrey Grossman	(# 10)
Mar. 29	Joel David & Kristin Sykes-David	(# 40)
Apr. 2	Harold & Susan Katz	(# 54)
Apr. 6	Kristan & Mike Brennan	(# 25)
Apr. 15	Aline & Sid Wanne	(# 58)
Apr. 16	Michael & Jay Braunstein	(# 21)
Apr. 20	Danny & Marla Finkelstein	(# 35)
Apr. 26	Howard Sharfstein & Mary Francell-Sharfstein	(# 34)

*Did we miss your anniversary? Call the office at (360) 733-8890 or email [office@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:office@bethisraelbellingham.org) with the month, day & year of your special day.*

## Scrip

Scrip is still available for many grocery stores and Amazon. Sadly, scrip cannot be used for delivery or pick up. This continues to be an important ongoing fundraiser for Beth Israel.

For more information, please contact Joan Wayne at [jawayne2@gmail.com](mailto:jawayne2@gmail.com).



# News from the Interfaith Coalition

BY JANIE PEMBLE

**We're Opening the Family Promise of Whatcom County Learning Center!** When remote learning became the norm during the pandemic, we knew we needed to create additional support for the children in our housing. We started by ensuring they had the equipment and access they needed for virtual classes, and now we're thrilled to announce we're opening the Family Promise of Whatcom County Learning Center in the coming months!

We are also recruiting volunteers for various positions: Volunteer Tutor, Learning Center Assistant, Van Driver Assistant and hiring a very part-time Van Driver. The Center will be for children grades 1-5 in Interfaith Coalition and Family Promise housing. Tutors are asked to have a background in education with the ability to teach reading and math. Details on each position and how to apply are on our website: <https://interfaith-coalition.org/>



**Save the Date – April 10.** We have cancelled our 2021 Hope Auction, scheduled for April 10, but will have a special virtual event on that date. It will be a fun event to support our shared mission and celebrate the love and compassion that comes from grateful hearts. Please save the date!

**Looking for more ways to care for your neighbors?** Project Warm Up still needs knitted hats and scarves, and CAST can always use gloves. These items can be dropped off at our coordinator's house. Call Ronalee Kincaid (360-671-2612) for directions and info. Kids Need Books is accepting books, but at this time we are limiting them to new books only. Please call the office to arrange a drop-off (360-734-3983).



Did you happen to see Interfaith in the recent *Business Pulse* magazine? Your generosity and work are celebrated in this great article: <https://businesspulse.com/interfaiths-actions-felt-throughout-whatcom-county/>

Thank you for your continuing interest and support!

## Family Promise Program of Whatcom County

BY JOAN WAYNE AND CORINNE GIMBEL-LEVINE

This is one program within the Interfaith Coalition that was created in 2016 from a community meeting in downtown Bellingham, when over 200 people from 34 faith communities gathered to explore a new option to provide a response to the growing crisis of homelessness in Whatcom County. Our congregation has been helping with this project for several years. We have provided meals, cleaning, and help at various sites. A BIG thank you to Andrea Shupack and Linda Blackwell for keeping this going. We will now be taking over the receipt of contributions, instead of Andrea and Linda.

Sadly, the need is increasing, and the ways we can help in this pandemic are limited. We will continue to provide meals. There is also a need for tutors for these children; for volunteer tutoring opportunities, please contact [info@interfaith-coalition.org](mailto:info@interfaith-coalition.org). We will be providing meals for the Family Promise guests in mid-March.

If you would like to help, contact Joan Wayne or Corinne Gimbel-Levine at [jawayne2@gmail.com](mailto:jawayne2@gmail.com) or [gimblearnp2015@gmail.com](mailto:gimblearnp2015@gmail.com).

## KESHER

*Continued from Page 3*

### Sixth Grade by Leah Ball

My students have been learning about the prophets through the lens of social justice. It has been wonderful to hear the compassionate and thoughtful ideas from students as we discuss what it means to be a prophet. One activity that the kids enjoyed was when I asked them to pick and tell us about a modern-day prophet: someone who spreads a message of justice. These sixth graders really impressed me as they taught the class about people like Greta Thunberg, Malcolm X, and Malala Yousafzai. I even got to learn some-

thing new from a student who told us about Fred Hollows, who restored the eyesight of hundreds of thousands of people and fought for the rights of people with disabilities. My students continue to inspire me with their humanity and knowledge, and I have no doubt that they could be modern-day prophets in their own right some day!

### Confirmation by Rabbi Joshua Samuels

Confirmation classes have been really engaging. One session, in particular, was very hands-on. We discussed fair trade chocolate, and the highlight of the session was doing a dark chocolate taste test. Every stu-

dent filled out a form for each sample and graded them in certain categories. After we loaded up on chocolate, we engaged in a text study on the Jewish values that connect with fair trade practices. Not only is this a favorite class amongst students, but it's also mine! And our last class was also very engaging. We talked about the January 6 Capitol insurrection by slowly looking at a photographic timeline of the day. For some students, this was their first time discussing this historic/tragic event, and this is why I find it necessary to bring timely and relevant topics to class.

## BAY News

BY BEN SOMMERS

BAY RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL VICE-PRESIDENT

During these hard times, BAY has still been able to meet up with other Jewish teens. Our BAY youth group had a virtual event with a Jewish teen group called CABIT. CABIT is located in Boise, ID. In that event, we talked about the Torah portion (*Va'eira*), and how much the Torah can relate to our times. One youth observed that the coronavirus is a way for G-D to say that we need to do something about climate change. In other words, the world is suffering, and we need to react to it. We then

talked about climate change, and how our leaders are trying to stop it. Our group also participated in a Kahoot online quiz about climate change. Lastly, we played Jewish charades. It was a great experience, a lot of fun. I am sure we made lots of friends. Any teens interested in coming to our events are welcome and wanted! Please reach out to [youthgroup@bethisraelbellingham.org](mailto:youthgroup@bethisraelbellingham.org) to learn more!

## In Memoriam

*Zichronam l'vrachah ~ May their memories be for a blessing*

Our congregation offers heartfelt condolences to the following individuals and their families:

Ann Suloway and family on the loss of her brother, **Mishra Stephen Suloway**, who passed away in Santa Fe, NM, on February 1, 2021.

Gaby Mayers and family on the loss of his uncle, **Moses Judah**, who passed away on February 2, 2021, in Bremen, Germany.

Todd Haskell and family on the loss of his mother, **Debbie Haskell**, who passed away on February 7, 2021, in Ellensburg, WA.

We mourn the passing of two members of the Beth Israel family, and offer heartfelt condolences to their loved ones:

**Mark Luster**, who passed away on February 3, 2021, following a year-long battle with cancer. He was 67 years old. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Nancy Luster, his sister Sondra Anthony, two nieces and two great-nephews.

**Ruth M. Philipp**, who passed away on February 4, 2021. A native of Lwow, Poland, Ms. Philipp was a Holocaust survivor and had just celebrated her hundredth birthday in December. She is survived by her niece, Elizabeth Philipp, of New York.

# Yahrzeits

Observances follow the Hebrew calendar, unless the secular date is requested, and are read on the Shabbat prior to the observance date.

## Friday, March 5

Henry Edwards	3/6
Samuel Leavitt	3/6
Felicia Elizabeth Romito	3/6
Elaine Fox Suloway	3/6
Shirley Boman	3/7
Eduardo Filgueira	3/7
Fred Fragner	3/7
June Krauzer Mazonson	3/7
Muriel Anzman	3/8
Carole Bajema	3/8
Luke Friedman	3/8
Ezidor Levin	3/8
Archie Fine	3/9
Charles B. (Bud) Koplowitz	3/9
Floyd Pritchett	3/10
Karen Weill	3/10
Lylyan Wick	3/10
Monica Zderic	3/10
Dorothy Brody	3/11
Marcelline Naparty	3/11
Bernice Rappaport	3/11
Helen Sharfstein	3/11
Gordon Eli Stolzoff	3/11
Harry Zemel	3/11
Thomas Josiah Boothby	3/12

## Friday, March 12

Morrie Feller	3/13
Esther Katz	3/13
Frank McKelvey	3/13
Esther Redel	3/13
Corey Skelton	3/13
Eliezer Spiro	3/13
Amy Louisa Blank	3/14
Leila Fallet	3/14
Norman Fallet	3/14
Max Lazarus	3/14
Loren Lund	3/14
Louis Sloss	3/14
Charles Blackwell	3/15
Marcia Landau	3/15
Sidney Leon	3/15
Lucia Mastbaum	3/15
Debbie Raas	3/15
Leonard Price	3/16
Megan Guppy	3/17
Barry Evans	3/18
William A. Gordon	3/18
Lou Mazel	3/18
Arthur Koplowitz	3/19
Naomi Stone	3/19
Fred Oscar Wigren	3/19

## Friday, March 19

Mabel Berman	3/21
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David Benjamin Miller	3/21
Raymond DeVries	3/22
Fred Heller	3/22
Nathan Landau	3/23
Leah Rachel Shapiro	3/23
Norma Soode	3/23
Anna Kushner	3/24
Justin Scharff	3/24
Jose Weill	3/24
Ben Zderic	3/24
Lois Oksenberg	3/25
Margaret J. Hanley	3/26
Michael Tabak	3/26

## Friday, March 26

Myron Fink	3/27
Ray Schapiro	3/27
Herbert Sulkin	3/27
Dorothy M. Fine	3/28
Arthur Feld	3/29
Harry M. Eisner	3/30
Sue Ohms	3/30
Arnold Somers	3/30
Dennis Scharff	4/1
Martin Spigelman	4/1
Norma Edwards	4/2
Beatrice Lazaroff	4/2
Jack Mazur	4/2
Joyce Zvenia	4/2

## Friday, April 2

David Alper	4/3
Robert Korner	4/3
Esther Suloway	4/3
Emanuel M. Lindheimer	4/5
Manfred Vernon	4/5
Violet Shaw	4/6
Curt Jay Alper	4/7
Samuel Midwood	4/7
Ethel Berger	4/8
Norma H. Bernstein	4/8
Max Wolfman	4/8
Naomi Lazarus Barnes	4/9
Arnold Behrstock	4/9
Fragner Family	4/9
Harold Jules (Hal) Kaplowitz	4/9
Selma Lebovich	4/9

## Friday, April 9

Leila Shavelson	4/11
Lena Horwitz	4/12
Max Swartz	4/13
Thelma Weiner	4/13
Frederick S. (Rabbi) Gartner	4/14
Marcelo Lindner	4/14
Edward Stone	4/14
Yochevad Katz Zimmerman	4/14

Jean Cheever	4/15
Rose Sondik	4/15
William Deas	4/16
Karleen Press	4/16
Jennie Shuster	4/16
Eliezer Strich	4/16

## Friday, April 16

Glen Myers	4/17
Sharon Gordon Greer	4/18
Elayne B. Weiner	4/18
Mary Widerkehr	4/18
Manuel (Manny) Emanuel	4/19
Morris Fischel	4/20
Judy Aikens	4/21
Judith Teir Kasser	4/21
Benjamin Shapiro	4/21
Esther Siegel	4/21
Felicia Keller	4/22
Sergio Shwadsky	4/22
Hy Zimmerman	4/22
Ray Jay	4/23
Benjamin Ostry	4/23

## Friday, April 23

Joanne M. Lund	4/24
Elaine Greenberg	4/26
Ronald King	4/26
Evelyn Roberts	4/26
Frances (Faigie) Morrill Schlitt	4/27
Alan Raas	4/27
Saul S. Spiro	4/27
Jack Gunther	4/29
Sydell Zemel	4/29
Rachel Kaplan Tartak	4/30

## Friday, April 30 and Saturday, May 1

Leonard Halpern	5/1
Margaret Horwitz	5/1
Manly Spigelman	5/1
Louis Suloway	5/1
Arthur Markell	5/2
ErmaFlora Haughawout Boothby	5/3
Etta Fine	5/3
Esther Kahn	5/3
Myron Gordon	5/4
Irwin Suloway	5/4
Naomi Krauzer Feinberg	5/5
Jack Kleinfeld	5/5
Jeanne Schwartz	5/5
Mary Mueller Thal	5/5
Jean Dement	5/7
Sam Eilenberg	5/7
Rebecca Leavitt	5/7
Arnold Zolotrow	5/7

# THE SHUL SHOFAR

## Congregation Beth Israel

751 San Juan Boulevard

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## PASSOVER 2021

### ***Second Night Seder***

*Sunday, March 28, 5:30 pm*

Gather around the table with your seder plate, Elijah's cup, matzah, and your computer or tablet as Andrea Shupack and Rabbi Samuels lead the community through the Haggadah up until the festive meal. There will be singing, storytelling, and most of all, each other.

***Next year in person!***

